

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8663

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CA, CU, PFOR

SUBJ: CANADA-CUBAN AIR SERVICES

REF: OTTAWA 0115

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AIR CANADA HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH DATA REGARDING PROPOSED SERVICES BY AIR CANADA AND CUBANA. HAS ASKED WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AIR CANADA MUST MEET TO OVERFLY US ON ITS CUBA SERVICES. PROMPT REPLY REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. AIR CANADA SCHEDULED TO ANNOUNCE JANUARY 29 THAT IT WILL COMMENCE SERVICE TO CUBA APPROXIMATELY MAY 1. TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT NOT YET AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, BUT WE UNDERSTAND IT MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EUR/CAN BY CANADIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO VLADIMIR SLIVITZKY (DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR AIR CANADA) ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO BE RELATIVELY BRIEF AND WILL CONTAIN NO INFORMATION ABOUT FREQUENCIES AND SCHEDULES.

3. SLIVITZKY TOLD TCO ON JANUARY 29:

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A. FREQUENCY OF SERVICE BY EITHER AIR CANADA OR CUBANA

NOT YET DETERMINED. ORIGINAL AIR CANADA PLAN (DETAILS NOT PROVIDED) IS NOW CONSIDERED TOO AMBITIOUS IN RELATION TO PROJECTED MARKET. DETERMINATION OF FREQUENCY AND SCHEDULE MAY BE MADE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY AND WE WILL BE ADVISED.

B. SO FAR AS HE IS AWARE, CUBANA EXPECTS COMMENCE OPERATIONS AROUND MARCH 1. ITS FREQUENCIES AND SCHEDULES NOT YET KNOWN AND WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH AIR CANADA. CUBANA EXPECTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF FIRST DC-8 ON FEBRUARY 8 AND SECOND ONE AT END OF FEBRUARY. (COMMENT: QUESTION OF THIRD AIRCRAFT DID NOT COME UP ON CONVERSATION; BUT WE WILL FOLLOW UP ON IT WITH SLIVITZKY.) COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE IS THUS CLOSELY RELATED TO ACQUISITION OF SECOND AIRCRAFT.

C. NO REVENUE POOL WILL EXIST BETWEEN AIR CANADA AND CUBANA.

D. RELATIONSHIP OF CHARTER TO SCHEDULED SERVICE WILL BE HANDLED BY AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACT BULK INCLUSIVE TOUR RATES ON ALL FLIGHTS OF BOTH CARRIERS. THESE RATES WILL BE COMPETITIVE WITH ITC RATES OFFERED PREVIOUSLY BY AIR CANADA AND CURRENTLY BY THE REGIONAL CARRIERS FOR FULL PLANE LOAD CHARTERS TO CUBA. THUS, THERE WILL BE NO CO-MINGLING OF CHARTER AND SCHEDULED PASSENGERS PER SE ON THE SCHEDULED SERVICES.

E. TRANSFER OF LEASED DC-8S TO CUBAN REGISTRY IS LIKELY AND MAY TAKE PLACE AT TIME OF TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT, BUT IF NOT PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE. (COMMENT: TCO QUESTIONED SLIVITZKY CAREFULLY ON TRANSFER POINT IN LIGHT OF OUR JAN 21 TELECON WITH FAA/SHAFFER AND FOUND HIM UNABLE GIVE CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE ON THIS POINT. SLIVITZKY PROMISED CHECK FURTHER AND ADVISE MORE DEFINITELY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.)

F. NO DETAILS OF PROPOSED CUBAN ROUTE TO MONTREAL AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS ASSUMED OVERFLIGHT OF U.S. PLANNED.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: SLIVITZKY UNDERSTANDS FROM HIS LAWYERS WHO HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH EXSTAFF THAT AIR CANADA WILL HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH USG IN OVERFLYING US TO/FROM CUBA. HOWEVER, HE REQUESTED TCO MAKE SPECIAL INQUIRY OF WASHINGTON AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADIAN REGISTERED AIRCRAFT ON SCHEDULED SERVICES TRANSITING U.S. AIR SPACE TO/FROM CUBA WHICH ARE NOT RELEVANT TO/FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

DEPT REQUESTED PROVIDE INFORMATION PROMPTLY FOR REPLY. (IF
THERE ARE SUCH REQUIREMENTS AND DEPT BELIEVES GOC SHOULD BE
OFFICIALLY INFORMED FIRST, PLEASE AUTHORIZE EMBASSY
MAKE SOME INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SLIVITZKY AT
APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME SO THAT WE CAN MAINTAIN
OUR CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WITH AIR CANADA).
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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